Temple Marsh
Nature Reserve

Consultation booklet:
November 2025

Medway.gov.uk/TempleMarsh

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Concept proposals

We want to improve the Temple Marsh site, to create a local reserve for wildlife and the residents of Strood, where the unique ecology of the site is protected, enhanced and diversified, and a recreational resource is created that encourages local residents to enjoy and interact with nature.

The improvements to the parkland will include better accessibility with new footpaths, a viewing platform overlooking the marshland, new wayfinding signage, play trails for Medway's younger residents, a picnic area and more, including reflecting the local habitat. Through planting, we will enhance the wildlife living on the site, which includes orchids, nightingales, bats, frogs and slow worms.

Key project milestones for 2026

Technical design to be finalised

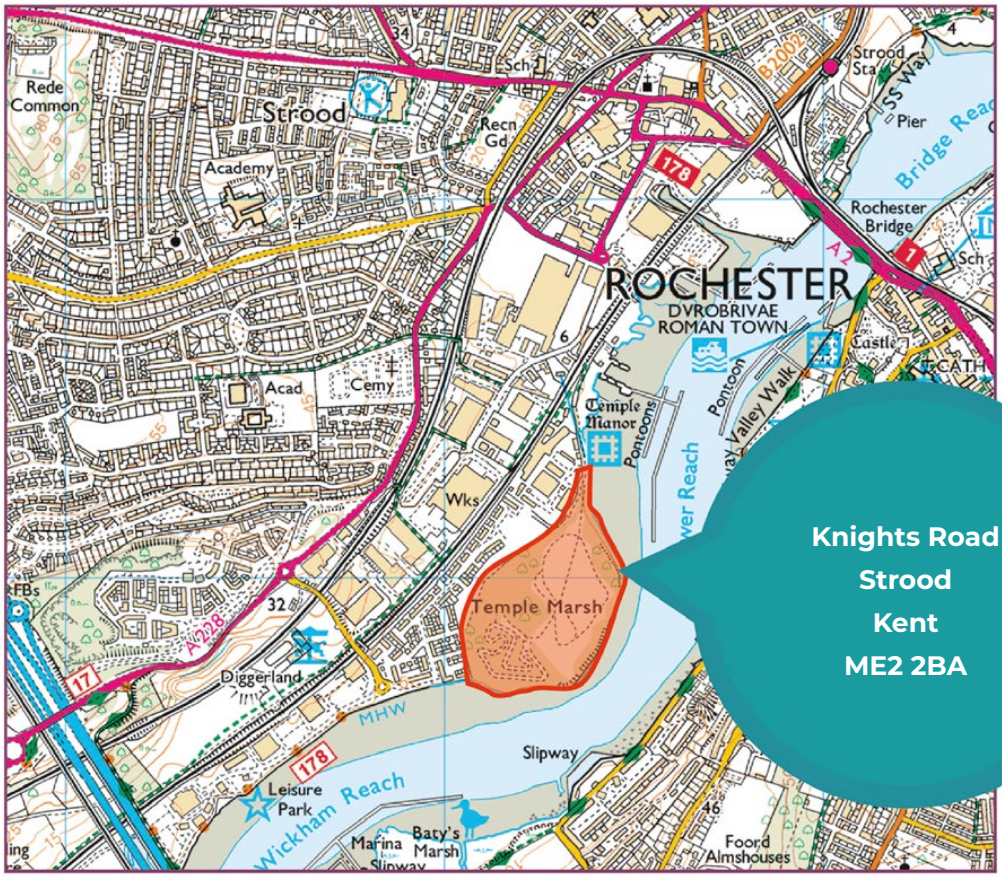
Landscape & river wall proposals agreed

Appointing a contractor to deliver the work

Works expected to start summer 2026 (three month programme)

Site location

Temple Marsh is located on the edge of Medway Valley Leisure Park in Strood, overlooking the River Medway.



Knights Road
Strood
Kent
ME2 2BA

Local wildlife

Protected species and site habitats

This site's history as a landfill site and its post-industrial landscape has meant it has developed predominantly through natural colonisation, enabling a unique ecology to develop.

Mixed scrub

Dense scrub on the site provides valuable habitat for nightingales and other nesting birds.

Woodland

Mature trees and areas of woodland support bats and nesting birds

Grassland

and open mosaic habitat

- Site boundary
- Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
- Broadleaf woodland: Poplar, oak and hawthorn
- Scrub: mixed scrub of bramble, hawthorn and saplings
- Tall ruderal herbs and scattered scrub
- Grassland: semi improved and neutral grassland
- Open mosaic habitat
- Intertidal saltmarsh
- Bare ground

Landscape strategy

The vision

To create a local wildlife reserve and an accessible green space for local residents, where the unique ecology of the site is protected, enhanced and diversified and a recreational resource is created that encourages visitors to enjoy and interact with nature throughout the year.

Project proposals

Protect and enhance the site's unique ecology

- Enhance and diversify the range of habitats within Temple Marsh to create a natural haven for wildlife.

Improve understanding of the site

- Increase public knowledge of the importance of the species that are on the site, including the nightingale population, and the site's habitats. This will include onsite signage and interpretation boards.

Create a more accessible and connected space

- Create a network of safe and attractive routes for passive recreation of the site.
- Improve sightlines by removing selected natural and physical barriers to restrict access to sensitive ecological areas.
- Introduce selected signage to create more welcoming entrances, provide information and help orientation.

Access and circulation

Natural play trails

Main gravel paths

Views to Rochester

Wildlife viewing platform*

- Main entrance and access point
- Viewpoint with seating
- Main path - surfaced accessible route
- Trails - mown paths through grassland and defined trails through woodland
- Restricted access to ecologically sensitive area
- Informal play and seating
- Viewing platform

*Wildlife Discovery Centre in Lee Valley Regional Park

Concept proposals

North entrance existing view

North entrance proposed view

Central site path existing view

Central site path proposed view

1. Main entrance point - seating, wayfinding and interpretation
2. Southwest entrance - wayfinding and interpretation
3. Informal natural play area
4. Viewpoint with seating and interpretation
5. Viewing platform
6. Picnic and informal play area
7. Northern entrance - wayfinding and interpretation
8. Secondary entrance with wayfinding
9. Path through meadow at west of site retained
10. Seating

Temple Marsh Nature Reserve

Tell us what you think of the plans

We want to hear from you on our initial proposals for the new nature reserve which both local residents and wildlife can enjoy.

You can complete our short survey from Monday, 10 November.

The survey closes at 11:59pm on Monday, 8 December.

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